(b) As per the latest available data from DGCI&S, the trade balance measured by difference of exports and imports, during April-July 1996 was US $ (−) 1082.31 million. Import of certain capital goods, raw-material and intermediates are essential for accelerated industrial production and also help in value added exports.

(c) Since April 1996 about 176 items have been moved into free list and about 21 items brought under the SIL Scheme on account of rationalisation of entries in the ITC(HS) Classification Book as well as for facilitating trade amongst SAARC countries.

Sinter plant at Bhilai

3341. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had sent a letter in October '95, requesting Steel Ministry to consider advising SAIL to take an appropriate view in awarding the work of Sinter Plant at Bhilai to a consortium comprising HEC, Ranchi, and others;

(b) whether the work has now been awarded to the same consortium but without HEC;

(c) if so, the reasons for debarring HEC to participate in the execution of the order; and

(d) action taken by Government to support HEC on the issue?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

सौराष्ट्र-कच्छ क्षेत्र में स्वैच्छिक महिला संगठनों को सहायता

3342. **श्री चिमनभाई हरिभाई शुक्ल:** क्या कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान सरकार ने कल्याण मंत्रालय के अधीन महिला स्वैच्छिक संगठनों को केन्द्रीय सहायता प्रदान करने की योजना के अंतर्गत महिला स्वैच्छिक संगठनों को वर्ष-वार कितनी सहायता प्रदान की है तथा सौराष्ट्र-कच्छ क्षेत्र में ऐसे संगठनों की संख्या कितनी है;

(ख) सरकार द्वारा उक्त संगठनों को किन-किन कार्यक्रमों के लिए वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान की जा रही है; और

(ग) क्या सरकार इन संगठनों द्वारा केन्द्रीय सहायता से कार्यान्वित किए जा रहे कार्यक्रमों का समय-समय पर कोई मूल्यांकन कर रही है?

कल्याण मंत्री (श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया): (क) से (ग) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Privatisation of transportation of Coal

3343. SHRI KANAKSINH MOHANSINH MANGROLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a short supply of coal meant for SSI units and other industrial units in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have received any proposals from the Coal India Limited for privatisation of transportation of coal by road in view of the shortage of railway wagons; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or being taken by Government on the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANATI SINGH): (a) and (b) As a result of a higher priority given for supply of coal to the power sector and as a result of a sharp increase in the demand of coal from this sector, supplies of coal